

EMPLOYMENT,

THE TRUE SOURCE OF HAPPINESS;

OR,

THE GOOD UNCLE AND AUNT.

BY MRS. BAYLEY.

LONDON :

JOHN HARRIS,
CORNER OF ST. PAUL'S CHURCH-YARD.

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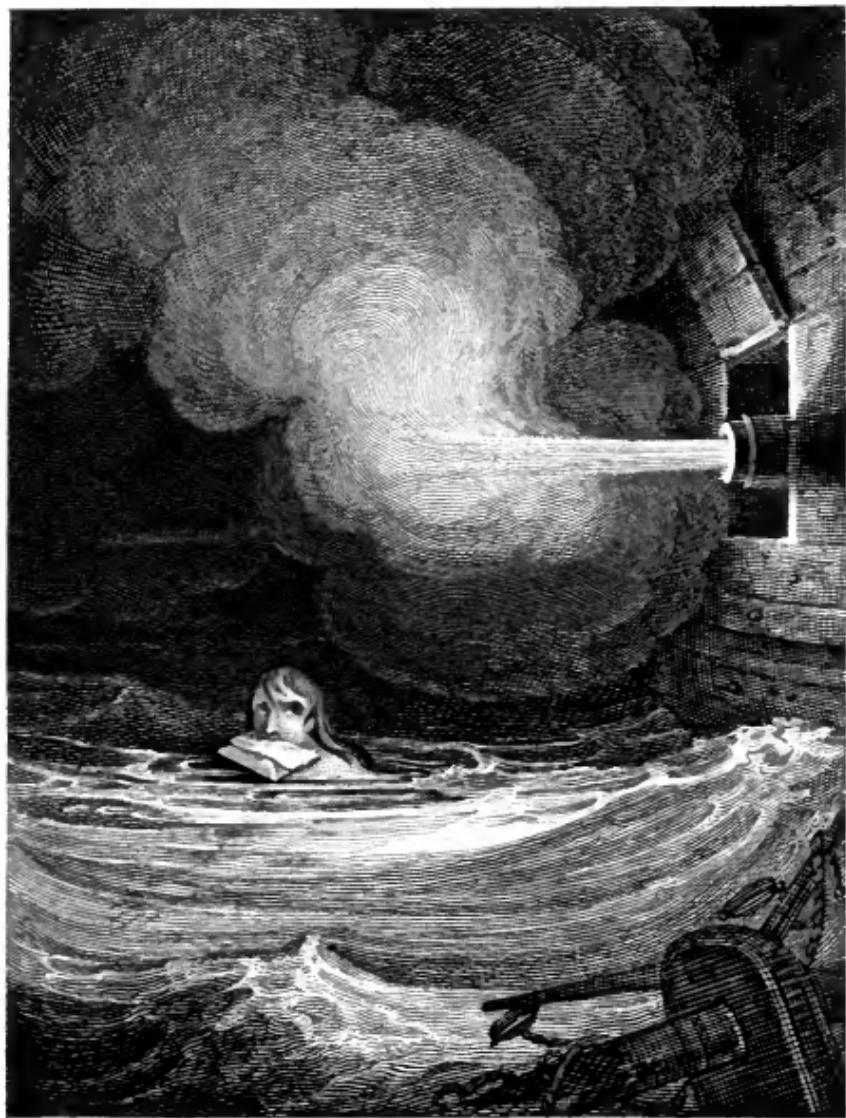


E M P L O Y M E N T,

THE TRUE SOURCE OF HAPPINESS.

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EMPLOYMENT.

*Sir Clouesley Shovel carrying despatches
in his mouth, during an Engagement.*

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1825.



EMPLOYMENT,

&c.

CHAPTER I.

“ For genuine happiness we need not roam ;

“ ’Tis doubtless found with little, and at home.”

SIR William and Lady Mandeville resided in a most beautiful part of Devonshire, near the sea. Thither they had retired, to endeavour, if possible, to repair a fortune, which had suffered materially by the extravagance and imprudence of an only son, to whom they had been most tenderly attached. From a continued course of dissipation, he had not only ruined his own, and greatly shattered

his father's property, but had so entirely destroyed his constitution, that at the age of twenty-five, he sunk, a martyr to his past follies, into the grave.

An event so truly melancholy could not fail to produce the most serious effect on Sir William and the truly amiable Lady Mandeville. Immediately upon receiving the sad news of their son's death, which happened in India, they parted with their house in Grosvenor Square, and repaired to an old family mansion, their present residence, where they intended to pass the remainder of their lives, in the endeavour to retrieve, as far as possible, their half-ruined fortune.

Lady Mandeville had an only sister, Mrs. Clifford, the widow of a gallant naval officer, who had fallen nobly in an engagement with

the enemy. This widow was left with little more than his pension to support herself and two children, Laura and Sydney, the former nine, and the latter twelve years of age. Mrs. Clifford possessed an excellent heart, but was too early introduced into the most fashionable circles, which she entered with avidity; and had continued a life of pleasure, from the age of sixteen till the death of her husband, which happened when she was thirty-five. Reflection then told her that, from too great a love of gaiety, the duties of a mother had been totally neglected; and with heartfelt grief she saw her children every thing but what she wished them.

Sydney, to whom Nature had been particularly bountiful, was a fine, noble-spirited boy; but from the neglect of his edu-

tion, knew little more at nine years of age, than what most children of very inferior station have acquired at six. Laura, though lovely in person, had been no better attended to: she had a trifling knowledge of music, and could dance prettily; but the more important means of improvement had been wholly lost sight of. Since the birth of Sydney, Captain Clifford had been almost constantly stationed in India; consequently every duty which regarded the children had devolved on Mrs. Clifford, who now, with poignant grief, saw how unworthy she had been of the sacred trust. This reflection, added to the severe affliction she experienced for the loss of a beloved husband, preyed so intensely on her mind, that in a few months after she became a widow, she was attacked by a ner-

vous fever; and a short period terminated her sorrows in this life. She had previously, however, received a promise from Sir William and Lady Mandeville to adopt her children: and it was for these little protégés, that they were now anxious to retrieve their fortune.

Immediately after the decease of their dear mamma, Sir William sent his carriage to convey the little Cliffords from London to Mandeville Hall. They were most affectionately received by him and his truly amiable lady; the latter of whom had not seen either of the children since Sydney was three years of age. Lady Mandeville soon discovered in Laura a striking resemblance to her poor departed sister, whose memory called forth many painful feelings; while Sir William traced in the fine manly form and counte-

nance of little Sydney, the features of his much valued and still lamented friend, the gallant Clifford.

Being much fatigued with their journey, Lady Mandeville kindly advised their retiring early to rest, and shewed each of them to a separate little apartment, which had been fitted up for their reception: wishing them a good night, she expressed a hope of seeing them in the breakfast parlour by eight o'clock the following morning. This request was punctually attended to; Sydney and Laura, for the first time, were up and dressed by eight o'clock. The latter, on meeting Lady Mandeville, inquired: "Pray, dear aunt, do you always rise so early? I thought only servants and menials rose so very soon: in London, we never had an idea of getting up till ten o'clock."

Lady Mandeville answered, “ By these practices, my love, you not only acquired a very idle habit, but lost many valuable hours, in which you might have gained great improvement, added much to your happiness, and benefited your health. I consider it highly criminal to lie sluggishly in bed, while the beauties of nature are calling forth our admiration on every side. Besides, my dear, each day brings its particular duties, which we could not possibly perform, if we passed great part of our time in bed. After breakfast we will take a walk by the sea, and you will soon discover what real advantages and enjoyments are to be gained by an early country walk.”

SYDNEY.—“ We have never seen the sea, dear aunt, and shall be delighted to accompany you.”

Breakfast being ended, Sir William retired to his study; and Lady Mandeville expressed herself ready to escort her young friends in their walk; during which they continued conversing on different subjects, till Sydney's attention was attracted by the majestic appearance of the waves. He stood in amazement for some moments, and then exclaimed: "How beautiful! How awfully grand, is the sea!"

LADY MANDEVILLE.—"We must admire the grandeur and beauty of the ocean, my dear Sydney, and thankfully remember the wonders and blessings it so visibly presents to us, as well as its terrible phenomena. In a tempest, the sea is a most dreadful element. Its waves swell mountains high, and ships are driven by them on sands or rocks, and are sometimes even dashed to pieces.

There are also whirlpools, or immense masses of water, which make the ship turn suddenly round with their current, and often end in sinking them. Water-spouts, which the wind raises up from the sea to the sky, are equally dangerous; they frequently burst with violent noise, and do great mischief to vessels at sea; so that some have been known to be sunk under their immense weight."

SYDNEY.—"But, pray, what is the cause of the whirlpools?"

LADY M.—"They are occasioned by great cavities, or contiguous rocks, in the ocean, where different currents meet."

SYDNEY.—"Can you tell me the cause of the water being salt?"

LADY M.—"Probably from the great multitudes of mines and mountains of salt, dispersed in the depth of the sea. And it

is necessary for several purposes. It prevents the water from corrupting ; and contributes to make it sufficiently strong to bear the greatest burdens, to be conveyed from one country to another. Sea water is also used as a medicine.—I cannot imagine a finer sight, than a fleet of ships in full sail ; and if we consider the contents of the ocean, we have still more to admire ;—a new world appears, and the number of beings of which it is composed is prodigious.”

SYDNEY.—“ I wonder how many different sorts of fish the sea contains ?”

LADY M.—“ Some naturalists assert, that there are upwards of five hundred different sorts ; but it is probable many more have escaped observation. The herring-fishery is immense ; our great stations for this fishery are off the Shetland and West-

ern Isles, and the coast of Norfolk. There are two seasons for fishing herrings: first from June to the end of August, and the second in autumn. Herrings are principally dried or salted; and great numbers of these are annually exported to the West Indies, to feed the negroes, as well as to many other parts of the world. The mackarel is a summer fish of passage, found in large shoals in different parts of the ocean, but especially on the French and English coasts. They enter the British Channel in April, and proceed to the Straits of Dover as the summer advances; so that by June they are on the coasts of Cornwall, Sussex, Normandy, and Picardy, where the fishery is considered most excellent. The chief salmon fisheries in Europe are in England, Scotland, and Ireland; in the rivers, and on the sea coasts

adjoining the river mouths. The chief rivers in England for salmon are the Tyne, the Trent, the Severn, and the Thames."

SYDNEY.—" Pray, can you tell me how salmon are caught?"

LADY M.—" The fishing is performed with nets, and sometimes with a kind of lock or weir made on purpose; which in certain places have iron grates, so disposed in an angle, that, on being impelled by any force in a contrary direction to the course of the river, they may give way, and open a little at the point of contact, and immediately shut again. The salmon, therefore, coming up into the rivers, are admitted into these grates, which open, and suffer them to pass through; but, closing again, prevent their return. They are also caught in nets, and sometimes struck by a spear, which the fishermen dart

into them, as they pass through the water. The greatest Sturgeon fishery is in the mouth of the Wolga, on the Caspian Sea, where the Muscovites employ a great number of hands, and catch them in an enclosure, constructed of huge stakes, in the form of the letter Z, repeated several times. Sturgeons, when fresh, eat deliciously; and in order to make them keep, they are salted and pickled in large pieces, and put up in barrels, in quantities of from twenty to fifty pounds. The roe of the sturgeon is made into a dish called *Kavia*, which is highly esteemed by the Muscovites and Italians. The Mullet, also, was among the Romans in great estimation, and bore an exceedingly high price. The money given for one in the days of Juvenal is a striking instance of the luxury and extravagance of that age. It is men-

tioned by that author in a satire, and the passage is thus translated by Dryden,

— The lavish slave
Six thousand pieces for a mullet gave,
A sesterce for each pound.

“ The great rendezvous of the Cod-fish is on the banks of Newfoundland, and the other sand banks that lie off the coast of Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, and New England. They prefer those situations on account of the quantity of worms produced in those sandy bottoms, which tempt them to resort thither for food. The number of ships that visit those banks is amazing. Great Britain still enjoys the greatest share, which is justly esteemed among our chief treasures, bringing wealth to the individual and strength to the state. The immense fishery of the cod is carried on by the hook and line only. They are very voracious,

catching at any small body they see move in the water. Fish of twelve and fourteen inches in circumference have frequently been taken out of their maws. Isinglass is also made of this part by the Iceland fishermen ; a process which deserves the attention of the natives of the north of Scotland, where this fish is very plentiful. Providence has kindly ordained, that this fish, which is so useful to mankind, should be so very prolific as more than to supply the deficiencies of the multitudes annually taken ; for the number is said to be greater of living animalcules in the milt of a single cod-fish, than of human beings in the world ; and yet

————— so wondrous small,

Were millions join'd, one grain of sand would cover all ;

Yet each within its little bulk contains
A heart which drives the torrent through the veins."

SYDNEY.—“ Is not the Whale a very large fish ?”

LADY M.—“ It is the largest fish the sea contains. Its length is from sixty to seventy feet, and it lives as long as the oak ; consequently, no land animal can in this respect be compared with it. They are chiefly caught in the North Seas. The largest are found about Greenland and Spitzbergen. A considerable fishery is also carried on in the South Seas, where the whales, though inferior in size, are more valuable, as they produce the spermaceti, which is a very profitable branch of commerce. The oil taken from the whale is very useful, as is also the bone ; of which you have some in your stays, Laura.”

LAURA.—“ Can you inform me, dear aunt, where Oysters and Lobsters are caught ?”

LADY M.—“ The Oyster-fishery is principally at Colchester, Feversham, Milton, the Isle of Wight, in the Swales of the Medway, and in all the creeks between Southampton and Chichester, from whence they are carried, to be fed in other places. Lobsters are chiefly caught in the British Channel, the Frith of Edinburgh, off the coast of Northumberland, and off the coast of Norway, whence immense quantities are sent to London.—There are also many fresh-water fish, which would not live in the sea.”

SYDNEY.—“ How much I regret that I am not acquainted with Natural History; it must be a delightful study.”

LADY M.—“ You judge very properly, my dear Sydney; it is a study, in which I hope you will take great delight, as it will be a continual source of amusement and

profit to you. I shall take another opportunity of saying more to you on this subject."

LAURA.—“ What a fine vessel is coming in sight ! Do you think it is a king’s ship ? ”

LADY M.—“ I cannot exactly say ; but probably it is a merchant vessel from Jamaica, laden with coffee, rum, and sugar, the produce of that island, of which immense quantities are yearly imported into this country. Many vessels sail annually from the ports of London, Liverpool, Bristol, and various parts of Scotland, with cargoes of different commercial articles to the West-India Islands, and in return bring in their produce.”

SYDNEY.—“ Oh ! how I should like to be on shipboard ; I intend to be a sailor, and hope I shall command a fine ship.”

LAURA.—“ I think very differently, brother. Although I admire the beauty of the sea, I have so great an antipathy to going on the water, that I would not be a sailor for the world.

LADY M.—“ It is an antipathy you must endeavour to surmount. By indulging in it, you may subject yourself to many painful inconveniences. At a future period, circumstances may render it necessary for you to visit France, or any other part of the continent, which you could not possibly do without crossing the sea; and it would be a great privation to give up a pleasant and profitable excursion, merely because you have an antipathy to the water. I hope, therefore, my dear Laura, you will immediately endeavour to conquer a prejudice which may prove so detrimental to you. I

will relate to you a little historical event, founded on fact. It is recorded of Peter the Great, Czar of Muscovy, who founded the city of Petersburgh. His antipathy to water was similar to your's, Laura; and you will see by this little anecdote how easily he overcame it. This great man had in his youth so strong a dislike to the water, that he would not even approach it. This feeling must have been an insuperable barrier to all his warlike achievements, had he not happily overcome it; and this was effected by the address of one of his courtiers. One fine day, Prince Gallitzin, his governor and favourite, persuaded him to ride into the country upon a hunting excursion, without informing him that there was a brook near the place. After some diversion, the Prince exclaimed on the heat of the weather. 'Oh!'

said he, ' that there were a river near, that I might bathe !'—' How,' said the young Czar, ' would you kill yourself ?' Gallitzin answered : ' I have often bathed with your father, and yet your majesty sees me alive.' The Czar was surprized, and coldly replied, that it often happened that people were drowned. ' Ay,' said the favourite, ' but not in water scarcely higher than a man's knees.' At this moment they came within sight of the brook. The Czar rode towards it trembling, and stopped his horse at a distance. Gallitzin passed through the water, and returned. The Czar was pleased at what he saw, and at last had courage to venture through himself ; and from that time never had any dread of water. Thus, by a little resolution, you see,

my dear child, how easily we may overcome the strongest antipathy."

LAURA.—"I do not think the Czar's dread of water could be so great as mine, but I will certainly endeavour to follow his good example."

LADY M.—"It is all I require of you, *to endeavour*; and I am sure you will succeed. We have imperceptibly extended our walk farther than I purposed; we will therefore return towards home. And pray tell me, Laura, have you not derived much greater pleasure and benefit than you could have had by remaining till this hour in bed?"

LAURA.—"Indeed, dear aunt, there is no comparison. I could not imagine it possible to derive so much pleasure from a walk, as I have experienced this morning. It has

been to me a lesson, from which I hope to profit."

LADY M.—“ I trust you will, my love; and remember the following little anecdote. George II. once said of the Duke of Newcastle, that he lost an hour every morning, and was running after it all the rest of the day. An excellent reproof to the Indolent.”

CHAPTER II.

THEY now returned to Mandeville Hall, and were met by Sir William. "I fear, my love," said he to Lady Mandeville, "you have taken too long a walk this morning."

LADY M.—"I assure you, it has been a very interesting one; and, I dare say, Laura and Sydney will have pleasure in relating to you the advantages we have derived from it."

LAURA.—"We have not only had a pleasant walk, but have also gained much information and improvement."

SIR WILLIAM.—"That is a benefit you will daily experience, my children, while you

remain with so exemplary and so excellent an instructress as Lady Mandeville." He listened attentively to the adventures of the morning walk, and then observed: "I also have a treat for this afternoon, which I hope will give you great pleasure. It is a visit to Lady Almeria's botanical garden."

SYDNEY.—"Pray what is the meaning of the word *Botany*?"

SIR WILLIAM.—"It denotes a knowledge of plants, and of the uses to which they may be applied in medicine, chemistry, agriculture, economics, and many other liberal and mechanic arts, as well as philosophy. A knowledge of this science is indisputably necessary for those who propose to apply plants to any useful purpose. For instance, suppose a physician, well acquainted with the virtues of opium, and a chemist, perfectly

versed in the method of preparing it, yet both of them totally ignorant of botany, so as to be unable to distinguish the particular species of poppy which produces opium, from others of the same genus: it is certain their chemical and medicinal skill could be of little use. It is also a very elegant and interesting science. The advantages attendant on botany are very great, and well worth the attention of individuals of every rank, and of either sex."

SYDNEY.—"Will you describe the principal advantages derived from Botany?"

SIR WILLIAM.—"Mankind have not the instinctive faculty with which many animals are endowed, of distinguishing with certainty whether food presented to them be salutary or noxious; consequently, they are often allured by the agreeableness of smell and taste,

to eat poisonous fruits, which, not unfrequently, prove fatal: whereas, a person skilled in botany, on perceiving the flower of a plant whose calix is a double-valved glume, with three stamens, two pistils, and one naked seed, can pronounce with certainty, that the plant from which the flower was taken, bears seed of a farinaceous quality; consequently, it may be safely used as food. Shew him a flower with twelve or more stamens inserted in the internal side of the calix; he will likewise with certainty pronounce that the fruit of it is wholesome food. And if a flower have five stamens, one pistil, one petal, or flower-leaf, and the fruit of the berry kind, he cannot hesitate to pronounce it poisonous. These are great advantages derived from botany, as it regards food of the vegetable and fruit kind. The same principle holds good

in medicine. In order to ascertain the medicinal virtues of all plants belonging to a particular class, the physician has nothing to do but to prove, by a set of clear and unquestionable experiments, the virtues of any one of them; which greatly shortens the labour of investigation: for by ascertaining the virtues of one genus, at a medium, he may determine the virtues of twelve species; and by proving the virtues of one genus belonging to a natural order, those of perhaps four or five hundred species are discovered."

LADY M.—"As you mean to be a sailor, Sydney, I would recommend to your particular attention the study of botany; for, in the event of your being cast away on a desert island, what benefit would it not be to you, to be acquainted with the nature of plants and vegetables produced in the place;

while a total ignorance of them might lead to very fatal consequences, not to yourself only, but to the whole crew."

The party were here interrupted by the servant announcing dinner, which was scarcely finished when the carriage arrived, to convey them to Lady Almeria's garden. "When in London," said Sydney, "I used to think the country must be very dull, because there were so few shops, and places of public amusement; but I now find it very different, and see a great deal to admire."

SIR WILLIAM.—"The young mind, my dear boy, is generally delighted with rural scenery. The various forms which nature assumes in the vicissitudes of the seasons, constitute a source of complacency, which can never be exhausted. How grateful to the senses the freshness of the herbage, and

fragrance of the flowers ! How much more delightful than the noise, smoke, bustle, and confusion of a polluted city, where thousands pass half their lives without the opportunity of admiring the beauty of the blue sky, or inhaling, with conscious delight, the balsamic odours of a western gale ! How little do they know the enjoyment we this moment experience, with all nature smiling in our view ! And the study of the animals, which nature has placed around us, is another source of natural, pure, and innocent amusement, my dear Sydney, to which we cannot be insensible.”

Here the carriage stopped, and the party with ecstasy entered the flower-garden. Laura's attention was immediately attracted by a fine bed of showy tulips. “ Are not the colours very beautiful ? ” said she.

LADY M.—“ They are very brilliant, and I am told, very valuable; but I confess the tulip is too gaudy a flower, to be a great favourite of mine. We are indebted to Capadocia, a province of Asia Minor, for the *tulip*; and the *auricula*, which I think much more handsome, is a native of Cairo. Here are some fine *pinks* and *carnations*, which come from Italy. The *lily* from Syria; the *damask* and *musk rose* from Damascus; and the *province rose* from Toulouse, in France.”

LAURA.—“ This is a beautiful rose.”

LADY M.—“ It is called the *tube rose*, and is a native of Java and Ceylon, islands in the Indian Ocean: and this very innocent looking *jessamine*, so sweet and delicate, originally came from the East Indies. To Italy we are indebted for the *daffodil*. The *runculus* was brought from the Alps; and the

gilliflower from Toulouse. Thus you see, my dear children, we are greatly indebted to distant climates for the finest flowers."

SIR WILLIAM.—"The collection of flowers you now see, is of the very finest sort. I beg you to examine the varied beauties of them, and remember from whence they came. I pass many hours in my garden, and consider the superintendence of it an elegant and pleasurable employment. Nothing is better calculated to gratify the inherent desire of novelty; for Nature is continually renewing her variegated appearance. She is infinite in her productions, and the life of man frequently closes before he has seen half the pictures she displays."

LADY M.—" You are too young, my children, to enter largely into the beauties

of the botanic garden; we will therefore only take a slight view of it, and pass to the kitchen garden, which is equally useful."

SIR WILLIAM.—“ I beg your attention a few moments to examine *this* plant; it is called the *wolf's-bane*, or *monk's-hood*, a genus of the trigynia order, belonging to the polyandria class of plants. On account of the poisonous qualities of monk's-hood, no species of it should be planted where children have access, lest they should suffer, by putting the leaves or flowers in their mouths, or rubbing them upon their eyes; for the juice of the leaves will occasion great disorder, by being only rubbed upon tender flesh; and the farina of the flower, when blown into the eyes, occasions a considerable and painful swelling.”

LAURA.—“ So dangerous a plant, I think, should not be introduced into a common flower garden.”

LADY M.—“ A just remark, my dear ; and a proof, in addition to many other instances, of the advantages to be derived from the study of botany. We now enter the kitchen garden. Observe, my dear Sydney, what a fine bed of *asparagus*. For this delicious vegetable we are indebted to Asia ;— as we are to Holland for *artichokes*; to Flanders for *celery*; and for *cucumbers* to Palestine. *Garlic* we have originally from Asia ; and *shallots* from Siberia. To France we owe our *lentils*; and to Astrachan, in Tartary, our *gourds*. *Cabbages* and *lettuces* are natives of Holland. The *cos-lettuce* was introduced from the island of Cos, near Rhodes, in the Mediterranean.”

SYDNEY.—“From what country were *potatoes* first imported?”

SIR WILLIAM.—“They were first introduced to this country by Captain Hawkins, from Santa Fé, in New Spain; but Sir Walter Ralegh was the first cultivator in Europe of this useful vegetable. *Peas* and *beans* are natives of Spain; and *kidney-beans* come from the East Indies.”

SYDNEY.—“The *cauliflower* is a beautiful vegetable; pray is it a native of England?”

SIR WILLIAM.—“No, my dear; that fine and delicious vegetable comes from the island of Cyprus; it was not introduced into England till about the time of the restoration of Charles II.—This is a bed of *turnips*; they originally came from Hanover.”

SYDNEY.—“Thank you, dear uncle; I find nearly all our good vegetables are fo-

reigners: from whence, pray, do we get our best fruits?"

SIR WILLIAM.—"The greater part, my dear, are from foreign climates. Observe this fine *peach-tree*. Cultivation has produced many varieties of this fruit; but for the original we are indebted to Persia and Carthage, from whence *citrons* were also first introduced. *Pears* and *figs* are natives of Greece and Egypt; *quinces* of Syria; and *plums* of Damascus."

LAURA.—"Pray can you tell me, from what country *oranges* and *lemons* are imported?"

SIR WILLIAM.—"Chiefly from Nice and Genoa, in Italy, the isle of Hieres, and the adjacent parts of France; from Portugal, the American islands, and the coasts of India."

SYDNEY.—“Are there not several species of figs?”

SIR WILLIAM.—“There are; and the best are brought from Turkey, Spain, Italy, and the southern parts of France.”

LAURA.—“Is there not a fruit called the *date*?”

LADY M.—“It is the fruit of the palm tree: the finest are brought from Tunis and Persia. You are also unacquainted with the *pomegranate*, which is a fruit imported from Africa.”

SIR WILLIAM.—“Here are some very fine *hops*, Sydney, worthy your attention. They are not generally met with in this part of the country, though their cultivation is very extensive in different counties in England, particularly in Kent, Surrey, Sussex, and Hampshire. Some authors say, we are

indebted to Artois for the first introduction of hops; but from their appearance in hedges, in a wild uncultivated state, I think it probable, that they may be natives of this island. They naturally twine themselves for support round whatever object presents itself; and without such assistance they will not flourish. It is somewhat remarkable, that the hop and scarlet kidney-bean twine round their supporters in opposite directions, notwithstanding every effort to direct them contrarily. You know that hops are essentially necessary in England, as they constitute a very material part of beer, which is the general beverage of the inhabitants; and this is the reason their cultivation is so very extensive."

LADY M.—“Night is advancing so rapidly, we had better bid adieu to the garden

for this evening. Our walk and ride have been attended, not with amusement only, but much instruction."

SYDNEY.—" For which we are extremely indebted to you and Sir William."

CHAPTER III.

ON the following morning, while at breakfast, Lady Mandeville observed :—“ My dear children, I am this morning expecting a visit from a much esteemed old friend ; consequently we must not leave the grounds. We will, however, visit my bees, and amuse ourselves by observing the progress of those little industrious creatures at their work, from which I think we may derive a very useful lesson.”

LAURA.—“ I have never seen a bee-hive, and cannot imagine how much amusement or instruction can be gained from such little

insects. But I shall be happy to accompany you, if you will allow me."

SYDNEY.—" So shall I, aunt; and am ready as soon as you please."

SIR WILLIAM.—" By the time you return, you will have altered your opinion, Laura; and, I have no doubt, will agree with your aunt, in thinking that the bee affords both an amusing and instructive lesson, which we shall do well to profit by."

LADY M.—" I am now ready, my dears, and we will make our first visit to my little favourite tribe. Here they are. Come gently, Sydney, with your sister, and look through this glass hive, which I had made on purpose to watch the little creatures at work.

" They are distinguished into several species, each of which has its peculiar genus,

talent, manners, and disposition. Equal variety prevails in the order of their architecture, and the nature of their materials. Some live in society, and share the toils; such are the *common bee*, and *drone*. Others dwell and work in solitude, building the cradle of their families, as the *leaf-cutter bee* does with the rose-tree leaf; and many others are as ingeniously employed, in their little hermitage, with the care of providing for their posterity. The species enumerated by Linnaeus, (one of the most acute observers and able writers upon Natural History,) are fifty-five. One of the number is a species of honey-bee, found in America, very different in form and manners from the common European bee. They hang their hives, or nests, together in clusters, almost like a bunch of grapes; and they are so contrived, that

each has its aperture, while the bees are at work upon it ; but as soon as it is filled with honey, this aperture is closed, and the bees leave it to work upon another vessel. The bees are sagacious in choosing the most secure retreat ; because their honey is so delicious a bait, that they are hunted after by many animals, and, being without stings, have no power to defend themselves, as ours do.

“ Pray observe that very fine bee, which is larger and longer than the others. It is called the *queen-bee*. She reigns absolute over her subjects, who pay her implicit obedience. Union and patriotism form, undoubtedly, the great order and happiness which appear to exist among this little exemplary tribe, from whom we may learn virtues on which depend the bliss and repose

of our lives ; for, in whatever rank we are placed, we should act in concert with our fellow-creatures, and endeavour by every possible means to assist each other.

“Negroes’ Island (one of the Philippines) produces only honey, bees’-wax, and cocoanuts. The bees of this island are remarkably fine and large, and the people uncommonly skilful in managing them ; though in other respects the natives are rude, brutish, and ignorant. This circumstance has given rise to the proverbial remark — ‘Negroes’ Island is inhabited by blacks and bees, but the winged natives are wiser and better governed than the walking natives.’ Indeed, the prudence, decorum, and various regulations of these sagacious little insects are truly astonishing.

Of all the race of animals, alone
The bees have common cities of their own,
And common sons; beneath one law they live,
And with one common stock their traffic drive;
Each has a certain home, a sev'ral stall,
All is the state's, the state provides for all;
Mindful of coming cold, they share the pain,
And hoard, for winter's use, the summer's grain.
Some o'er the public magazines preside,
And some are sent new forage to provide:
All with united force combine to drive
The lazy drones from the laborious hive;
Their toil is common, common is their sleep;
They shake their wings when morn begins to peep,
Rush through the city gates without delay,
Nor end their work but with declining day.

“ We will now take a walk into the poultry
yard, and I will shew you my domestic
fowls.”

LAURA.—“ Thank you, dear aunt ; but I am so much pleased with the description of the bees, that I could with pleasure remain observing them all the day.”

LADY M.—“ I am glad, my dear, I have not been disappointed in the pleasure I anticipated you would derive from a visit to my little industrious favourites.

“ This is our chicken-yard: observe what a fine collection of poultry.”

SYDNEY.—“ Are the common poultry natives of England ?”

LADY M.—“ Our common poultry came originally from Persia and India. Aristophanes calls the *cock* the Persian bird; and it seems that it was known in Persia before Darius and Megabyzus. These birds are now found wild in the Isle of Tinian, and other islands in the Indian Ocean. They

had been naturalized in this country before the arrival of the Romans; for Cæsar informs us that they were included in the forbidden food of the old Britons. They were probably imported by the Phœnicians, who traded to Britain about five hundred years before the Christian æra. For all our other domestic fowls, turkeys, geese, and ducks excepted, we seem to be indebted to our conquerors, the Romans. Here, Sydney, is a fine noble *peacock*. When it appears with its tail expanded, none of the feathered creation can vie with it for splendour. It fully answers the beautiful description given of it in the book of Job, which is thus elegantly paraphrased by Dr. Young:

How rich the peacock! What bright glories run
From plume to plume, and vary in the sun!

He proudly spreads them to the golden ray,
Gives all his colours, and adorns the day!
With conscious state the spacious round displays,
And slowly moves amid the waving blaze.

“ But the horrid scream of its voice, and its few amiable qualities, considerably abate the pleasure we find in viewing its plumage. It is also remarkable for its gluttony. In Italy it is proverbial, that ‘ The peacock has the plumage of an angel, the voice of a demon, and the stomach of a thief.’ Our first peacocks were brought from the East Indies, and they are still found in vast flocks in the islands of Java and Ceylon.”

SYDNEY. — “ Here is a noble turkey, though far inferior in beauty to the peacock.”

LADY M.—“ It is not so handsome, though much more useful. We consider the *turkey*

a very tender bird, yet, in its wild state, it is found, in great plenty, in the forests of Canada, which are covered with snow during three parts of the year.—This is a *pintada*, or *Guinea-hen*. It is not very common in this country, but is a native of Africa, where in many parts they are seen in numerous flocks, feeding their young, or leading them in quest of food."

The party were here interrupted by the servant announcing the arrival of Colonel, Mrs., and Miss St. Julian.

"I will introduce you, Laura," said Lady Mandeville, "to one of the most accomplished and most amiable girls you ever saw, and recommend you to cultivate as much as possible the friendship of Maria St. Julian."

They now reached the drawing-room.

LADY M.—"My dear Mrs. St. Julian, how

very happy I am to see you! And you, Maria, how much you have grown!"

MRS. ST. JULIAN.—"I forget my own griefs, my dear Lady Mandeville, in seeing you look so well and happy!"

LADY M.—"Pardon me, Colonel St. Julian: in my ecstasy at meeting my friend, I almost forgot you were present."

At this moment Sir William entered, and in the most friendly manner welcomed the Colonel and Mrs. St. Julian to Mandeville Hall; expressing the pleasure he anticipated in the hope that they intended remaining some time his visitors.

COL. ST. JULIAN.—"How sincerely do I wish we could avail ourselves of an opportunity, which would afford us such real pleasure! But, I grieve to say, it is the opinion of our physician, that my son should imme-

diately leave England for a warmer climate. We are therefore on the eve of our departure for Italy ; consequently, I fear, our visit to you must not exceed a few hours."

MRS. ST. JULIAN.—" My dear Lady Mandeville, as our stay with you will be very short, and as I know Colonel St. Julian wishes to engage every moment in conversation with Sir William, you will perhaps indulge me with a *tête-à-tête* in your study, that I may in confidence, before I leave the country, pour forth all the feelings of my heart to my earliest and very dear friend."

They no sooner entered the study, than Mrs. St. Julian, with poignant grief, expressed all the apprehension she felt for her darling son, who, she feared, was far advanced in a consumption.

Lady Mandeville, with her usual kindness

of heart, tenderly sympathised in the feelings of her friend; at the same time imploring her to summon to her present aid that Christian fortitude, of which she had given evident proofs on former occasions.

“ My dear Maria,” said she, “ pray do not suffer the great love you bear your son to induce you to forget the duty you owe your husband and daughters. Remember, they share your present grief; and how much would that grief be augmented to them, should your own health suffer; which evidently will be the case, if you continue to indulge in your present despondency. Pray, my dear friend, do allow me to offer you that soothing balm, which you so effectually administered to me in my recent affliction.”

During this conversation, the children had retired to the garden, with Miss St. Julian, a

very lovely accomplished girl, just one year older than Laura. To an exalted mind, and great sweetness of disposition, were added the advantages which a refined education and a most exemplary mother could give. She painted and sketched very prettily, and played with great execution ; but these were not the most brilliant points in her education. She was perfectly mistress of Geography and History, both ancient and modern ; she had also attentively studied the best English, French, and Italian authors. To a young lady possessing such superior advantages, it was not difficult to discover how sadly poor Laura had been neglected. This Miss St. Julian saw with pain, and kindly pointed out the infinite advantages she would derive from being constantly with Lady Mandeville, whose virtues and accom-

plishments had justly secured to her the esteem and admiration of all who knew her. She was proceeding in encomiums on this amiable lady, when the servant announced to Miss St. Julian, that her papa's carriage was at the door. She hastened in, and the party took an affectionate farewell of each other.

Soon after their departure, Lady Mandeville inquired of Laura her opinion of Miss St. Julian. "Do you not think her, as I represented, a charming, accomplished, and very amiable girl?"

Laura.—"I dare say she is not quite so perfect as you describe."

Lady M.—"Pray, my love, tell me of what you disapprove in Maria St. Julian."

Laura.—"Oh, nothing, aunt; but I—I—I don't know—but I think your partiality renders you blind to her faults."

Here she stopped in evident confusion, and endeavoured to change the conversation; then rose hastily, and walked towards the door.

LADY M.—“ Stay, my love; I cannot part with you under an unfavourable impression; candidly tell me if your feelings towards Miss St. Julian be not influenced by envy?”

Laura burst into tears. “ My dear aunt,” said she, “ I confess, with shame, that I have indeed been illiberal. The only fault I could perceive in Maria St. Julian was her superiority to myself.”

LADY M. (embracing her.)—“ My dear Laura, you give me pleasure; the heart that accuses itself is half corrected. I rejoice that an opportunity has offered to convince you, how unworthy and painful is this odious vice: but your frankness, my dear child,

gives me pleasure:—it is the presage of every great and noble principle; and I trust, my Laura will never again suffer so degrading a passion to enter her mind. It is, above all other vices, inconsistent with the character of a social being.

Base envy withers at another's joy,
And hates that excellence it cannot reach.

“ We should, therefore, watch the first rising of this base spirit, and be thankful for what we are, rather than envy others because we are inferior to them; remembering that we also have our rank of excellence in the scale of being. We are *all* so ashamed of being thought envious, that we not only conceal it as much as possible from the world, but are glad to dissemble the appearance of it to our

own hearts. Mutius, a citizen of Rome, was so noted for his envious and malevolent disposition, that Publius, one day observing him to be very sad, made this remark:—‘ Either some great evil has happened to Mutius, or some great good to another ’

“ The most effectual barrier we can oppose to envy, is a generous interest in the happiness of others. Accustom yourself to listen to the praise of your friends, and if you detect a disposition to be envious, immediately check it, lest the subtle poison spread its infection over your heart.”

LAURA.—“ I will resolve to do so; for it has given me greater pain, than any fault I have ever committed before.”

SYDNEY.—“ I do not feel a disposition to depreciate any one for surpassing me; but

I wish to be quite equal, and if possible superior to them: I hope, dear aunt, this is not a feeling of envy."

LADY M.—“No, my child, quite the reverse; it is not envy, but emulation you describe: a noble passion, which prompts us to aspire at excellence.

“It has been justly observed, ‘That emulation strives to excel by raising itself; not by depressing others.’ Emulation and application are indispensably necessary to arrive at any degree of eminence; and by these, and persevering industry, the lowest may be exalted, particularly in a country like this, where merit is sure of its reward.

“At the time that Athens was in the zenith of its glory, and philosophy had attained its greatest height, two young men, destitute of friends and fortune, gained the

applause of that mighty state, by industry and emulation only."

SYDNEY.—"Pray, dear aunt, tell me what were their pursuits?"

LADY M.—"A fondness for learning and the sciences was the foundation of a friendship between two youths, Menedemes and Asclepiades. They were both eager to obtain a knowledge of philosophy, and agreed to pursue their studies together. Being poor, they had no other means of subsistence than that of labour; and this, in its ordinary application, would deprive them of the time requisite for study. They therefore resolved to devote the day to study, and the night alternately to labour: and with the small sum thus produced, did these aspiring young men preserve at once their existence and their improvement.

“ That two young men, destitute of apparent means, should be able to support themselves, created suspicion in some illiberal minds ; and it was strongly suspected that they had some illicit method of providing for their subsistence. The young men were, in consequence, summoned before the judges. Asclepiades and his friend instantly appeared, and with that easy confidence, the never-failing attendant of innocence, inquired of what they were accused ? They were informed, that they were suspected either of fraud or robbery ; and if they could not explain the source from which they gained their subsistence, they must be immediately committed to prison. They were about to reply to the charge, when one of their judges proposed to send for the person with whom they lodged ; and, to the confusion of their

suspicious and ungenerous accusers, their resolute and economical mode of living, as well as the end for which they had practised it, were now fully revealed. An universal burst of applause instantly ran through the whole assembly ; and their emulation, application, and abstinence, were equally admired. A sum of money was unanimously voted to them from the public treasury, and this also they devoted to furnish themselves with greater facilities in the pursuit of their studies.”

“ Thank you, dear aunt,” said Sydney. “ I rejoice that the young men came off so honourably : their accusers must have felt very mortified and degraded.”

The conversation was here interrupted by a summons to dinner. Lady Mandeville afterwards proposed a visit to her silk-

worms, to which her young friends readily acceded.

“ The silk-worm,” observed her ladyship, “ is an insect not more remarkable for the fine silk it furnishes, than for the many forms it assumes, before and after its being enveloped in the rich ball which it weaves for itself. From a small egg, about the size of a pin’s head, which is its first state, it becomes a pretty large worm, or caterpillar, of a whitish colour, inclining to yellow. In this state it feeds on mulberry leaves, till it comes to maturity; and then it winds itself up in a silken bag, about the size and shape of a pigeon’s egg, and becomes metamorphosed into an aurelia. In this state it remains, without any signs of life or motion, till at length it emerges from its temporary prison, makes itself a passage out of its

silken sepulchre, and becomes a moth. It perpetuates its race by an egg, which it casts, and which the genial warmth of spring ripens into life and animation. In this state you now see it, Laura. Observe this sample of soft, fine, bright, delicate silk, the work of this little insect. Can you imagine that we are indebted to it for all our beautiful silk dresses?

“ In Persia the number of mulberry-trees is so prodigious, as to enable the natives to feed vast numbers of silk-worms, which produce some of the most excellent silk in the world.”

LAURA.—“ Pray, was the art of manufacturing silk first invented in England?”

LADY M.—“ No, my love; we are indebted to the inhabitants of the Isle of Cos for that valuable invention; and it is said

that Pamphila, daughter of Platis, was the first inventress. The discovery was long unknown to the Romans. Silk was conveyed to them from Serica, where the worm was a native. But so far were they from profiting by the discovery, that they could not be induced to believe so fine a silk could be the work of a worm; and thereupon they formed a thousand chimerical conjectures of their own. Silk was a very scarce commodity among them for many ages: it was even sold for gold, weight for weight, insomuch that Vopiscus tells us, the Emperor Aurelian refused the Empress his wife a suit of silk, which she solicited of him with much earnestness, merely on account of the expense. In the year 1521, the French, being supplied with workmen from Milan, commenced a silk manufacture; but it was not till long after this

time that they could obtain raw silk from the worms; and, even in the year 1547, silk was in France both scarce and dear. Henry II. is said to have been the first who wore a pair of silk knit stockings; though the invention originally came from Spain, whence silk stockings were brought over to Henry VIII. and Edward VI. of England. Our King James I. was very earnest for the introduction of this useful manufacture into his dominions; and strongly recommended the planting of mulberry-trees for the propagation of silk-worms; but, unhappily, without effect. It appears, however, from the various experiments recorded in the Philosophical Transactions, and other works, that the silk-worm thrives and works as well, in all respects, in England, as in any other part of Europe. Indeed, the silk manu-

facture is now become a very considerable branch of commerce, and affords constant employment to many individuals."

SYDNEY.—“ Is it possible this little insect can be of such great importance? Pray what substitute could have been found for ladies' dresses, had the silk-worm not been discovered?”

LADY M.—“ We must then have been contented with muslin and cotton, the produce of the cotton-tree. Cotton is a very curious as well as useful vegetable production. It is separated from the seeds of the plant by a mill, and prepared and spun into all sorts of fine works, as stockings, waist-coats, quilts, tapestry, and curtains. From it muslin also is made. The finest sort comes from Bengal and the coast of Coromandel. It forms a very considerable article

in commerce, and is distinguished into cotton and cotton-thread. It is imported to this country in bales; the utmost care being taken to prevent its getting wet, as moisture in any degree is very prejudicial to it.

“ But we had also other resources, even if this plant, and its extensive uses, had not been discovered to us. There are various kinds of stuff-dresses, which are both fashionable and comfortable, and for which we are indebted to the sheep. The stuffs, like the ordinary cloths for apparel and furniture, are made from wool, by the various processes of washing, shearing, dressing, combing, spinning, and weaving. The wool, when first shorn from the sheep, and not sorted, is called *a fleece*. Each fleece consists of wool of different qualities and degrees of fineness, which it is the business of the dealers to separate.

A woollen manufactory includes the several sorts of commodities into which wool is wrought; as broad-cloth, kersey, baize, serges, flannel, stuffs, rugs, and carpets."

SYDNEY.—"Then I am indebted to the sheep for the principal part of my clothing?"

LADY M.—"You are, my dear; but to the *Beaver* you owe your hat. The skin of this little ingenious animal is imported into this country in large quantities (chiefly by the Hudson's Bay Company) from the Northern parts of America, where this animal abounds."

SYDNEY.—"Will you favour me with some account of the beaver?"

LADY M.—"It is a very sagacious species of animal, requiring great art to catch it, and frequently eluding the efforts of human ingenuity. They vary much in their colour;

the finest are black, but the general colour is a chestnut-brown. Their skins constitute an article of extensive trade, being the foundation and support of the hat-manufacture. I could with pleasure dwell longer on the history of this ingenious tribe of brutes, but here is Sir William: run, my children, and give him an account of our evening walk."

CHAPTER IV.

THE following morning, while at breakfast, Lady Mandeville observed to her little *protégés*: “ My children, the weather is too damp to admit of our walking; we will therefore consider the best method we can adopt to employ our time in the house; for it is of the greatest consequence that we lose not a moment in idleness or frivolity.

“ ‘ Take care of the pence, for the pounds will take care of themselves,’ was a very just and sensible reflection of old Mr. Lounds, the famous secretary of the treasury, under William the Third, Anne, and George the

First. ‘ I therefore recommend to you,’ says an author, ‘ to take care of minutes, for hours will take care of themselves.’ Be doing something all day long ; and do not neglect half hours and quarters of hours, which at the year’s end amount to a great sum.

“ Titus, the Roman Emperor, throughout the course of his whole life, called himself to an account every night for the actions of the past day ; and as often as he found that he had passed any one day without doing good, he entered upon his diary this memorial : *Perdidī diem.* ‘ I have lost a day.’ Thus may every one say, who suffers a day to pass without doing something for God, his fellow-creatures, or himself.”

SIR WILLIAM.—“ I have heard, that the famous Dr. Cotton Mather, who was considered a very learned man, was so careful to

redeem his time, that to prevent the tediousness of morning visits, he wrote over his study door, in capital letters, ‘BE SHORT.’”

LADY M.—“There is something so unsatisfactory in idleness, that I am only astonished that any one can indulge in it; and it is a clear truth, that the possessor of an indolent disposition is invariably wretched. ‘When I visited a country neighbour of mine,’ says Lord Clarendon, ‘in the morning, I always found him in bed; when I came in the afternoon, he was asleep; and to most men besides myself, he was denied. Once walking with him, I observed he was melancholy, and by spending his time so much in bed, and so much alone, that there was something that troubled him; otherwise it could not be, that a man, upon whom God had poured so many blessings, should be so little

contented as he appeared to be. To which he answered, that he thought himself the most happy man alive in an amiable wife, and a family, which gave him all the comfort he could desire; that he was in such ease in his fortune, he did not wish it greater; but, he said, he would deal frankly with me, and tell me, if he were melancholy, which he suspected himself of being, what was the true cause of it; namely, *his time he knew not how to spend*; which was the reason he loved his bed so much, and slept at other times, which he already knew had injured his health.' Lord Clarendon adds, that the unhappy gentleman's melancholy daily increased with the agony of his mind, till he contracted those diseases which carried him off, at the early age of thirty-six."

SYDNEY.—"That was indeed a melancholy

instance of the ill effects of idleness. I must acknowledge, I am never so dissatisfied as when I have *nothing to do.*"

LADY M.—"It is undoubtedly your own fault, my child, when you are annoyed with the feelings you express; as there is not a moment but we may employ usefully, if we desire it: and we are deficient in our duty when we neglect to do so."

SIR WILLIAM.—"Come, my children, I have amusement for you in my study. I will shew you some fine paintings, and portraits of noble and good characters, of whom I can give you some anecdotes both instructive and diverting."

LADY M.—"I hope you will admit me of your party; for I am sure I shall be equally gratified."

SIR WILLIAM.—"Your company will

add much to our pleasure. Observe, Sydney, this fine portrait of one of our bravest Generals, the venerable Sir Ralph Abercrombie. The circumstances of his death are peculiarly interesting and affecting. The French, having been repulsed by him in a general attack upon our army, near Alexandria, made a second advance, which was contested with unusual obstinacy, and they were again obliged to retreat. On this memorable occasion, he received a mortal wound, which he concealed, until the enemy were totally routed, when he fell from his horse through loss of blood. He was conveyed from the field of battle to the admiral's ship, where he died, and was interred under the castle of St. Elmo, in La Valetta, a town in the island of Malta. As a testimony of national regard, the British Parliament unanimously

voted to his memory a monument in St. Paul's Cathedral, and settled a handsome pension on his heirs."

LAURA.—"This is also a fine painting."

SIR WILLIAM.—"It is Charles the Twelfth, of Sweden; he possessed *few* amiable qualities; but his wonderful intrepidity and perseverance, his enterprize, his firmness under misfortune, his contempt of danger, and his enthusiastic desire for glory, will ever command the admiration of man."

SYDNEY.—(Pointing to an ancient painting) "This is a noble countenance."

SIR WILLIAM.—"It is the portrait of a great and good man, my dear: Sir Philip Sydney was a subject of England, but was honoured with an offer of the crown of Poland. Queen Elizabeth used to call him 'her Philip;' and the Prince of Orange termed him

‘his Master.’ Lord Brooks was so proud of his friendship, that he would have, as part of his epitaph—‘Here lies Sir Philip Sydney’s friend.’ He was so universally beloved, that at his death, he was honoured by a public funeral, at the national expense,—a tribute to worth which till his time had not been conferred on any private subject; and he was lamented in verse by the Kings of France and Scotland, and by the two Universities of England.”

SYDNEY.—“Pray, did Sir Sydney fall in battle?”

SIR WILLIAM.—“I will relate to you the circumstances of his death, my dear, as they are very interesting, and prove how truly humane and noble-minded was this excellent man. Sir Sydney was engaged to assist some of our allies against their enemies. He had

distinguished himself so as to gain the love and esteem of all the army; when, in an engagement, as he was nobly fighting at the head of his men, this great man received a shot, which broke his thigh. Conceiving himself mortally wounded, he turned his horse's head, to repair to his tent, in order to have his wound examined. The heat of the weather, and the fever which the agony of the wound had induced, excited almost intolerable thirst; so that he requested his attendants to fetch him a draught of water. With infinite difficulty it was procured, and brought to him; but just as he was raising the cup to his lips, he chanced to see a poor English soldier, who had been mortally wounded in the same engagement, lying upon the ground, faint, bleeding, and ready to expire. He also, like his General, was enduring the agony of consum-

ing thirst, and, though respect prevented him from asking, he turned his dying eyes upon the water, with an eagerness which sufficiently explained his suffering. The magnanimous Sydney took the cup, which he had not yet tasted, from his lips, and directed it to be given to the poor soldier. ‘This poor man,’ said he, ‘wants it still more than I do.’”

LADY M.—“This last humane noble trait in Sir Philip, is an example we must all, my children, endeavour to imitate. Let us cultivate a generous habit of slighting our own gratifications, for the benefit of our fellow-creatures. That excellent man seemed to consider himself as the brother of the poor dying soldier; and, in the agony of parching thirst, cheerfully resigned what, at that moment, he most needed, to the relief of his suffering fellow-creature. At such a moment

it was the privilege of the generous Sydney ‘to taste the luxury of doing good,’ which, no doubt, was sweeter to his mind than even the refreshment of water would have been to his exhausted frame. This is certainly an instance of the most exalted virtue, and inculcates a noble precept on us all.”

SIR WILLIAM.—“Here, Laura, is a person you know something of. It is the portrait of Dr. Watts. As I consider him to have been a real friend to youth, by the publication of his ‘Divine Songs for Children,’ I admit him with pleasure into my library, and will give you some little of his history. It is said, that while he was very young, before he could speak plain, he displayed a great inclination for learning; and when any present of money was made him, he would say to his mother, ‘A book! a book! Buy a book.’

He began to learn Latin at four years old. When he was about seven or eight, he was desired by his mother to write her some lines, as was the custom with the other boys after the school hours, for which she used to reward them with a farthing. He obeyed, and presented her with the following couplet :—

I write not for a farthing, but to try
How I your farthing writers can outvie.

“ At an early age he composed great part of his Hymns. His first essay was by the desire of his father, in which he succeeded so well, that he was earnestly requested to continue the practice ; and in process of time he wrote a sufficient number to make up the volume of ‘ Divine Songs for Children ;’ the merit and beauty of which, Laura, you

know, as you can repeat many of them by heart."

LAURA.—“ The Morning and Evening Hymn, and the Little Busy Bee, are beautiful.”

LADY M.—“ They are, my love, and are well adapted to the tender minds of young children.”

SIR WILLIAM.—“ This fine head is Sir Isaac Newton’s, a very learned man and a most profound philosopher, who was, notwithstanding, so remarkable for his mild and amiable temper, that no accident could ruffle it. Sir Isaac had a favourite little dog, which he called Diamond. Being one evening called out of his study into the adjoining room, Diamond was left behind. Sir Isaac returned, having been absent about an hour, and had the mortification to find that Dia-

mond had overset a lighted candle among some papers, (the nearly finished labour of many years,) which were now in flames, and almost consumed to ashes. This loss, as Sir Isaac was then far advanced in years, was irretrievable. He made no gesture or expression of anger at the poor animal, exclaiming only, ‘ Oh, Diamond! Diamond! you little know the mischief you have done me !’ ”

LADY M.—“ How much more amiable was this conduct of Sir Isaac, than that of a certain little friend of mine, whom I saw violently kicking poor Pompey this morning, only because he chanced to put his dirty paw on his drawings.”

SYDNEY.—“ I was very angry at the moment; but I am now heartily ashamed of it, and sorry for having done so. I am sure,

very sure, in future I shall always think of Sir Isaac's amiable example, when I am offended with a poor animal."

LADY M.—“ I hope, not only so, my love, but at all times when you feel angry, or an inclination to betray passion or ill-temper, you will remember how amiable Sir Isaac appears from his mild disposition. Of all the qualifications of the mind, that are not positive virtues, I know none more desirable than good humour. No quality can render the possessor more happy in himself, or recommend him more strongly to others. It is one of the first requisites in society. We feel attached even to animals that betray a softness of disposition. Montaigne discovered pleasing music in the good-humoured purring of his cat. And, however we may admire the shape, colour, and beauty

of an animal, good temper is the strongest recommendation. But passion is attended with the most fatal consequences. It renders a man unfit for advice, deprives him of his reason, and robs him of all that is great and noble in his nature; makes him incapable of sober conversation, destroys friendship, instigates him to acts of inconsiderate cruelty, and, in fine, turns all order into confusion. But a good-humoured, amiable, and forgiving disposition, generally pourtrays a good mind, and invariably secures to the possessor the love and esteem of all with whom he is connected."

SIR WILLIAM.—“ Now for some fine naval characters, Sydney, which, I know, are particularly interesting to you. Of these I will relate some anecdotes, giving you the true characteristic trait of British seamen.

In the first action in which Admiral Hopson (then acting as midshipman) was engaged, after fighting cheerfully for two hours, he inquired good humouredly of the sailors, for what they were contending? And on being told that the action must last till the white *rag* at the enemy's mast-head was struck, he exclaimed, ' Oh, if that 's all, I will see what I can do ! ' At this moment the ships were engaged yard-arm and yard-arm, and obscured in smoke. Our young hero, noticing this circumstance, determined to haul down the enemy's flag, or to die in the attempt. He accordingly mounted the shrouds, walked across the main-yard, and, unperceived, gained that of the French admiral's ship, when, ascending with agility to the main-top-gallant-mast head, he struck the flag, and returned with it. The enemy's

flag having disappeared, the British tars shouted ‘Victory,’ by which the crew of the French ship were thrown into confusion, and fled from their guns. The officers, surprised at the event, endeavoured to rally them; but the English sailors seized the opportunity, and boarding the vessel, took possession of her. At this juncture, Hopson descended from the shrouds, with the French flag, which he displayed in triumph. He was immediately promoted to the quarter-deck, went rapidly through the several ranks of the service, and proved one of its most distinguished ornaments.”

SYDNEY.—“ It was the most meritorious action I ever heard of. Very richly he deserved his promotion: pray tell me some more of these fine anecdotes.”

SIR WILLIAM.—“ I will relate to you one

of Captain Hardy, who served in the reign of Queen Anne. When stationed off Lagos Bay, he received certain intelligence of some Spanish galleons having arrived in the harbour of Vigo, under the protection of several men-of-war; and, without any warrant for so doing, he immediately set sail, and gave intelligence to Sir George Roche, then commander-in-chief in the Mediterranean. The admiral, in consequence, made the best of his way to Vigo, where he took or destroyed the whole fleet. Sir George was sensible of the value of the advice communicated, but, after the fight was over and the victory obtained, he ordered Captain Hardy on board, and with a stern countenance said,—‘ You have done, Sir, a very important piece of service; you have added to the honour and riches of your country by your diligence;

but don't you know you are liable to be shot for quitting your station?' — ' He is unworthy,' replied Hardy, ' to bear a commission under her majesty, who holds his life as any thing, when the glory and interest of his country require him to hazard it.' "

SYDNEY.—" Was it not a very intrepid answer?"

SIR WILLIAM.—" It was. The admiral was of the same opinion; for he despatched him with the news of the victory, and a recommendation to the queen, who immediately conferred upon him the honour of knighthood, and afterwards made him rear-admiral.

" There is one more instance of British intrepidity, which I cannot but relate: and then, my children, as the morning has brightened a little, we will prepare for a

walk. Sir Cloutesley Shovel was yet a boy in the navy, under the patronage of Sir John Narborough, when he heard the admiral express an earnest wish to get some papers conveyed to the captain of a ship, then engaged in action, at a considerable distance; with equal promptitude and resolution, he undertook himself to swim with the despatches in his mouth, through the line of the enemy's fire. And this service he actually performed, to the astonishment of all who were witnesses of his courage."

SYDNEY.—"Bravo! I am more than ever charmed with the character of a British sailor; and shall rejoice when the time arrives for me to be in his Majesty's service."

LADY M.—"Before that period, you have much to learn, my dear boy; I therefore

recommend you to take care that you pass not one hour unprofitably.

“ The sun is now shining with redoubled splendour, and the late refreshing showers must add to the sweetness of the morning. I therefore propose a walk to the mill. On our road, I will relate to you the history of the miller, as it furnishes a remarkable instance of genuine integrity, in humble life. It has occurred within our own observation, and greatly interested Sir William and myself in the welfare of the honest man and his family.

“ John Green, the miller, was originally a small farmer, and possessed a few acres of land, bequeathed to him by his father, and which he managed to the greatest possible advantage. At an early age, he married an

industrious young woman, and was doing, as he thought, tolerably well. His family increased rapidly; in a few years, he found himself father of seven children. By this time, his wife, who was naturally of a delicate constitution, became very sickly, and unable to attend to the domestic duties of her family; and as they could not afford to keep a proper person to look after the children, they were much neglected, and every thing in the house went wrong. This to poor Margaret, (the miller's wife,) who was doatingly fond of her family, was a heart-sickening reflection; and her grief had so great an effect upon her health, that she gradually declined, till her life was despaired of. At this time, to add to poor Green's misfortunes, a fire happened in an out-building adjoining his stable, which not only consumed his granary, containing

the produce of his year's labour, but even his barn and stable were burnt to the ground ; and in the latter perished his team of horses. This was a loss, which his scanty means could not hope to replace ; and, to complete his distress, he had some demands coming upon him, of which he had anticipated the discharge by the sale of his corn. That resource being lost, he had no alternative ; and, to enable him to pay his debts, he was obliged to dispose of his few acres of land, together with the little tenement in which he dwelt. This was immediately done ; and, as far as the money would reach, every one was honestly paid. Poor Green, with his disconsolate wife and children, repaired to a small hovel, a short distance from their former residence, where, by daily labour, he endeavoured to gain for them a subsistence. But, from depression of

mind, his health had suffered ; and very few were disposed to employ a man who was not able to work hard. In this dreadful situation, they probably would all have perished, but for a very humane kind-hearted apothecary, residing in the village, who had formerly attended poor Margaret, and who called in, during this season of distress, to inquire after her. He describes the state he found them in, as the most pitiable he had ever witnessed. The poor wife, stretched on a bed of straw, apparently in the last stage of consumption, nursing one sickly infant at her breast ; and another, not eighteen months old, was lying by her side, craving for food. The other five children, all under seven years, seated round a deal table, were waiting for a scanty portion of potatoes, which their father was preparing in the best way he was able for their dinner.

The good-natured apothecary was much affected at the sight, and inquired how they could have been reduced to so very deplorable a state? ‘Have you *no* money?’ said he. Green earnestly looked at him, and with a firm voice (though the big tear rolled down his manly but pale countenance) replied, ‘*I have*?—‘Have you money,’ said the doctor, ‘and yet allow your wife and family to remain thus miserable?’—‘*I have*,’ said Green; ‘but, though we perish, it must not be touched.’ The apothecary rose hastily and indignantly from the wooden bench, on which he had been seated: ‘Unfeeling wretch!’ said he: ‘what! suffer your wife and children to perish, though you have the means of relief in your power? It must not, it *shall* not be!’ The tears rolling down his face, and his voice half choked with

grief and resentment, he hastened from the hovel, and bent his steps towards the parsonage-house, intending to consult with the clergyman, as to what could be done for the immediate relief of this poor family. They decided on returning instantly to the cottage, and to insist on Green's explaining, what appeared to them, his inhuman conduct. As they opened the door, they found this affectionate husband kneeling by the side of his wife, apparently in an agony of distress, but praying with great devotion. For some moments, the visitors were unable to speak. They then emphatically inquired the reason why he did not, with the money he acknowledged himself to be possessed of, procure for his family the necessaries they so much required? The *poor* man burst into tears. 'The money I have, is *not my own*. Before

my sad loss, I was indebted to the miller on the heath twenty pounds, which sum I have not yet been able to pay. He has now consented to take it by instalments of two guineas per month; and the two guineas I have by me, I must take to him on Monday next.' The gentlemen were astonished; they strongly commended his virtuous principles; and, giving him a guinea each, desired he would immediately procure necessaries and comforts for his wife and children. They then left him, and went to the miller, intending to solicit his lenity towards this poor family. He was a good old man, and was greatly moved at the melancholy recital. After a few moments' reflection, he said: 'Gentlemen, I am, as you perceive, considerably advanced in life, and find my business more than I can well manage; I

have been for some time thinking of a partner. An honest man is all I want, and one who will do the laborious part of the business. Green will answer the purpose; and I will immediately take him into my concern.' He did so; and on his death, two years afterwards, left Green his mill, house, and furniture, with two or three hundred pounds in money. He now goes by the name of 'the Honest Miller,' and has, as you may suppose, from so good a character, plenty of custom.*"

LAURA.—"I hope his wife recovered."

LADY M.—"She did, my love; and is now, with her children, quite well. In this honest miller, we have an example of integrity deserving our greatest commendation;

* This story is founded on fact.

for it is only by adherence to virtuous principles, that we can hope to pass through life with safety and honour. Whether we consult our present comfort, or look forward to future reward, in every respect the course which integrity points out is by far the most eligible—the only right and true path to pursue."

CHAPTER V.

ONE morning, at breakfast, Sydney observed:—“ My dear uncle, Laura and I beg to claim the performance of a promise, which you partly made, to tell us something more of Natural History. From the little observation we have already made, we are convinced it is a delightful study.”

SIR WILLIAM.—“ It will afford me pleasure to comply with your request, my dear children; and I am pleased that you have fixed on so profitable an employment.

“ Natural History is that science, which not only gives a complete description of na-

tural productions in general, but also teaches the method of arranging them into classes, orders, genera, and species. This definition includes zoology, botany, and mineralogy.

“ *Zoology* signifies the animal kingdom, comprising every living creature. This kingdom is divided into six classes:—1st, *Mammalia*, or animals that give suck.—2d, *Ornithology*, or birds.—3d, *Amphibiology*, or amphibious animals. — 4th, *Pisces*, or fishes. —5th, *Entomology*, or insects.—6th, *Vermeology*, or worms.

“ The second division, called *Botany*, or the vegetable kingdom, is divided into twenty-four classes.

“ The third division, called *Mineralogy*, is divided into three classes:—1st, *Petrea*, stony or rocky substances.—2d, *Minerea*, or minerals. — 3d, *Fossilia*, or fossils. These

several classes are subdivided into *orders*, the orders into *genera*, and these again into *species*. Having explained so far, my children, you must now tell me, which part of Natural History I shall first describe."

LAURA.—"I should prefer plants."

SYDNEY.—"I should say birds and animals; as, in my opinion, the most interesting: but I resign, with pleasure, my choice to your's, Laura."

SIR WILLIAM.—"That is amiable in you, Sydney; and as I have no doubt you will be equally interested, I will comply first with Laura's request; and then proceed to give you all the information in my power on *your* favourite subject.

"The Universal Parent of all things decreed that the earth should be covered with

plants, and that no place should be barren. But since all countries have not the same changes of seasons, and every soil is not equally fit for every plant, He, therefore, that no place should be entirely deficient, gave to every one of them such a nature, as might be chiefly adapted to the climate: so that some of them can bear intense cold; others, an equal degree of heat: some thrive only in dry grounds; others, in moist. Hence the same plants grow only where there are the same seasons of the year, and the same kind of soil. The Alpine plants live often in high and cold situations; and, therefore, prosper on the Alps of Armenia, Switzerland, and the Pyrenées, whose tops are equally covered with perpetual snow, as those of the Lapland Alps, where plants of the same kind are found: and it would

be in vain to seek for them any where else. It is remarkable, in relation to the Alpine plants, that they blow and ripen their seeds very early, lest the winter should steal upon them on a sudden, and destroy them. Our northern plants, although extremely rare every where else, are to be found in Siberia, and about Hudson's Bay ; of this species are the *Arbutus*, *Bramble*, *Wintergreen*, and many others.

“ Plants impatient of cold live within the torrid zones ; hence both the Indies, though at such a great distance from each other, have plants in common. The Cape of Good Hope, from what cause we know not, produces plants peculiar to itself ; of this number are almost all the species of *Aloes*.

“ *Grasses*, the most common of all plants, can bear almost any temperature of air ; in

which the great wisdom of the Creator particularly appears: for all over the globe they, above all plants, are necessary for the nourishment of cattle; and the same thing is seen in relation to our most common grains. Neither the scorching sun, nor the pinching cold, prevents any country from producing its vegetables. Nor is there any soil, which does not bring forth many kinds of plants. The desert and most sandy places, have their peculiar trees and plants; and, as rivers or brooks are very seldom found there, we cannot, without admiration, observe that many of them distil water; and, by that means, afford the greatest comfort to man and beast, that travel there. Thus the *Tillandsia*, which is a particular plant, and grows on the tops of trees in the deserts of

America, has its leaves turned at the base into the shape of a pitcher, with the extremity expanded. In these the rain is collected for thirsty men, birds, and beasts."

LAURA.—" That is indeed, very wonderful."

SIR WILLIAM.—" It is, my love; as is also the *Water-tree* in Ceylon, which produces cylindrical bladders, covered with a lid: into these is secreted a most pure and refreshing water, both to men and animals.

" But the goodness and wisdom of the Creator nowhere appears more conspicuous than in the growth of trees. For as their roots descend deeper than those of other plants, provision is thereby made that they shall not rob them too much of nourishment. And, what is still more astonishing, a stem, not above a span in diameter,

often shoots up its branches very high; these bear, perhaps, many thousand buds, each of which is a plant, with its leaves, flowers, and stipula. Trees that shoot up in this way, are easily preserved, and save a vast deal of trouble in planting. Their leaves, falling in autumn, protect the plants growing near against the rigour of the winter; and in summer they afford a pleasing shelter to animals, against the extreme heat of the sun. The particular structure of trees also contributes very much to the propagation of insects, who chiefly lay their eggs upon the leaves, where they are secure from the reach of cattle. Evergreen trees and shrubs, in the northern parts, are frequently found in the most barren woods, that they may be a shelter to animals in winter. They lose their leaves only every third year; and

as their seeds are sufficiently guarded by the mosses, they do not require any other covering. The *Palms*, in the hot countries, keep their leaves perpetually, for there the seeds stand in no need of any shelter.

“ Many plants and shrubs are armed with thorns; as the *Buck-thorn*, *Sloe*, and many others; which prevent animals from getting access to them to destroy them.

“ Thus, my children, we see in every plant, however large or small, the wisdom and goodness of God. But, I trust you will soon be able to read the best works on natural history, in which you will find a more full and enlarged explanation, on these interesting subjects, than I can, at present, give you.”

SYDNEY.—“ Thank you, dear uncle. Pray now tell us something of animals and birds.”

SIR WILLIAM.—“ I will produce some instances, to shew you how providentially the Creator has furnished every animal with such clothing as is best suited to the country where they live; as also how excellently the structure of their bodies is adapted to their particular way of life: so that they seem to be destined solely for the places where they are found. *Monkeys*, *Elephants*, and *Rhinoceroses*, feed upon vegetables which grow in hot countries, and there they have their allotted places; to which their constitutions are otherwise so suited, that when the sun darts forth its most fervid rays, they are nowise inconvenienced by the heat. Numbers of these animals reside in the mountains of Negroland, as *Lions*, *Tigers*, *Wild-boars*, and *Roe-bucks*, as well as *Apes* of several sorts, and *Serpents*; the latter of which are

so large, that it is said they will swallow a man whole. There, also, the *Simiae tribe*, apes, monkeys, and baboons, are so numerous, as to make great destruction in the plantations. There are three sorts of these animals; one of which is of a prodigious size, and remarkably sagacious. When taken young, they are taught to walk upright, and, by degrees, are rendered very useful to the natives, who teach them to pound Indian wheat; to fetch water on their heads, in calabashes or gourds, from the rivers or springs; nay, even to turn the spit. These animals are great lovers of oysters, in the catching of which they certainly display some ingenuity: at low water, they go down to the shore among the rocks, and when the oysters open their shells, by reason of the violent heat of the sun, the monkeys put a small stone between, and

take out the fish. Sometimes it happens that the stone slips aside, or is too small ; in such cases the monkey is himself caught by the paw ; and, being thus found, he is taken and killed by the Blacks, who consider his flesh delicious, as they do also that of elephants.

“ The natural place of the *Reindeer* is fixed in the coldest part of Lapland, because their chief food is the liver-wort, which grows nowhere else in so great abundance. As the cold here is very intense, they are clothed, like other northern animals, with skins filled with the closest hair, by the assistance of which they are enabled to defy the rigours of winter. In like manner, the rough-legged *Partridge* passes its life in the Lapland Alps, feeding upon the seeds of the dwarf birch: its feet are feathered, to enable

it to ascend and descend the heights with safety, amidst the snow.

“ The *Camel* frequents the sandy and burning deserts, in order to get the camel’s hay. How wisely has the Creator contrived for him! He is obliged to go through the deserts, where frequently no water is found for many miles. All other animals would perish with thirst in such a journey; but the camel frequently undergoes it without much suffering; his stomach being provided with cells, in which he can reserve water for many days. It is related by travellers, that the Arabians, when, on journeys, in distress for water, kill the camels for the sake of the water in their stomachs, which is found not at all corrupted, but perfectly good for drink.

“ The *Pelican* is also an inhabitant of desert and dry places; and builds her nest

far from the sea, to procure a greater degree of heat for her eggs. She is consequently obliged to bring water from a great distance for herself and young. To meet this necessity, Nature has provided her with a very large bag under her throat, which she fills with a quantity of water sufficient for many days; and this she pours into the nest to refresh her young, and teach them to swim. It is a singular fact, that wild bears, lions, and tigers come to this nest to quench their thirst, but do no hurt to the little ones.

“ The *Sea-swallow* deserves to be particularly noticed, on account of her strange way of living: unable to plunge into the water, and catch fish as adroitly as other aquatic birds, she finds her caterer in the *Sea-gull*, whom she pursues, and obliges to abandon part of his prey. But in the autumn, when

the fishes hide themselves in the deep places, the sea-gull herself is supplied with food by the *Merganser*, which is able to plunge deeper into the sea.

“ The chief granary of small birds is the knot-grass, which bears heavy seeds, like those of the blackbird-weed, and is a very common plant by the road side, not easily destroyed, even by trampling upon it. It is extremely plentiful after harvest in fields, to which it gives a reddish hue by its numerous seeds, which fall upon the ground, and are gathered all the year round by the small birds.

“ In my little collection I must not forget to name the *Stork*, a native of Egypt. It lays but four eggs, and sits only thirty days. Its filial affection has been the admiration of all ages, and attracted the attention of the

most judicious and learned. Hence one of our poets says :—

The Stork 's the emblem of true piety,
Because when age hath seiz'd, and made his dam
Unfit for flight, the grateful youngling takes
His mother on his back ; provides her food ;
Repaying thus her tender care of him
Ere he was fit to fly, by bearing her.

“ The *Pelican*, of which we spoke before, is a bird of which as many stories have been told as of the stork, though perhaps with much less truth. It is, however, sufficiently singular to merit our particular attention.

“ No less care is taken of amphibious animals, as the snake and frog kind, which, as they have not wings to fly, nor feet to run swiftly and commodiously, would scarcely have any means of taking their prey, were it not that some animals run, as it were of

their own accord, into their mouths. When the *Rattle-snake*, a native of America, with open jaws fixes his eyes on a bird, fly, or squirrel, sitting on a tree, the animal drops in consternation from bough to bough, till at length, as if conscious that no refuge remained, it falls into the very mouth of the reptile, by whose dreadful gaze and expanded jaws it seems to be completely fascinated. Other animals, as mice, have been observed making, as it were consciously powerless, efforts to escape, and at last to run directly into the mouth of their terrible devourer. How very dreadful this serpent is to other animals, will appear by an account we have in a treatise, intitled *Radix Senega*, which at a future period you shall read; the author says, — ‘ One of these terrible ser-

pents got clandestinely into the house of Governor Blake, at Carolina, where it would have long lain concealed, had it not been that all the domestic animals admonished the family, by their unusual cries, equally shewing their horror and consternation; their hair, bristles, and crests standing up on-end. Had it not been thus discovered, there is no doubt but it would have proved fatal to the whole family.' By means of the rattle, which terminates this serpent's tail, we have some guard against his destructive powers. The consequence of not attending to this warning, or not having the power to obey it, is horribly fatal; the wounded body turning into one putrid mass, in the space of six hours."

SYDNEY.—" Pray, is there not a sort of

spider, named the *Tarantula*, the bite of which is very dangerous, and which is said to be cured only by music?"

SIR WILLIAM.—"Yes, my love. The tarantula is a native of Italy, Cyprus, Barbary, and the East Indies. It lives in the open fields; and it is said that its existence does not exceed one year. The bite of the tarantula is described as affecting persons with sickness, delirium, and sometimes with deep melancholy. It is said the same symptoms return annually, in some cases, for several years, and at last terminate in death. Music, it has been pretended, is the only cure. A musician is brought, who tries a variety of airs, till at last he hits upon one, that urges the sufferer to dance. The violence of the exercise produces a proportionable agitation

of the animal spirits, with a consequent degree of perspiration ; the result of which is, frequently, a cure. Such are the circumstances that have been generally related, and long credited, concerning the bite of this animal.

“ There is another instance of Divine favour, my children, which we cannot reflect on without the greatest admiration. It is the preservation of those animals which, at a certain time of the year, are, by the rigour of the season, excluded from the necessities of life. Thus the *Bear* in autumn creeps into the moss which he has gathered, and there lies all the winter ; subsisting upon no other nourishment but his fat, collected during the summer in the cellular membrane, and which, without doubt, during his fast, circulates through his vessels, and supplies

the place of food: to this may probably be added, the juice which he sucks out of the bottom of his paws. The *Hedgehog*, *Badger*, and *Mole*, in the same manner, fill their winter-quarters with vegetables, and sleep during the frosts. The *Bat* seems cold and quite dead all the winter.

“ Most of the amphibious animals get into dens, or to the bottom of lakes and pools.

“ In the autumn, as the cold approaches, and insects disappear, *Swallows* migrate into other climes, in search of food and a temperature of air more congenial to their constitution: only the latter hatches, or those young birds which are incapable of distant flights, seek for an asylum against the violence of the cold in the bottoms of lakes, amongst the reeds and rushes, from whence,

by the wonderful appointment of Nature, come forth again.

“ The *Moor-fowls* work themselves out walks under the very snow. They moult in summer, so that about the month of August they cannot fly, and are therefore obliged to run into the woods; but at that time the moor-berries and bilberries are ripe, from which they are abundantly supplied with food: but the young, who do not moult the first summer, though they cannot run so well, are able to escape danger by flight. The other birds that feed upon insects, migrate every year to foreign regions, in order to seek for food in a milder climate, while all the northern parts, where they lived well in the summer, are covered with snow. By these migrations, birds also become useful to different countries, and are distributed

over almost the whole globe. But a circumstance which still more demands our admiration is, that all of them exactly observe the times of coming and going, and that they do not mistake their way.

“ Insects, in the winter, generally lie hid within their cases; from whence, at the approach of spring, they awake and fly forth, and gladden themselves in the gaiety of the season.

“ Some animals, which lie hid in the winter, do not observe the law of fasting, but provide storehouses in summer and autumn, from which they take what is necessary during winter. Of this little industrious class are *Ants*, *Bees*, *Mice*, *Jays*, and *Squirrels*.

“ Some animals feed entirely upon certain species of animalculæ. Others subsist only

by rapine, and daily destroy numbers of the more peaceable kind. The *Bat* and *Goat-sucker* make their excursions only by night, that they may catch the moths, which at that time fly about in vast numbers. The *Wood-pecker* pulls out the insects which lie hid in the trunks of trees. The *Swallow* pursues those which fly about in the open air. The *Mole* pursues worms. The large fishes devour the small. In fact, I think we scarcely know an animal which has not some enemy to contend with. Amongst quadrupeds, wild beasts are most remarkably pernicious and dangerous to others; and the hawk kind among birds. But, that they may not destroy entire species, even these are circumscribed within certain bounds. Of those which are fiercest, it deserves to be noted, how few they are in proportion to other

animals, and how unequal the number of them is in all countries.

“ I think, my dear Sydney, I have now expatiated pretty largely upon your favourite subject, and am afraid I shall have time for but little more this morning. I beg you, however, to feel assured that nothing is made by Providence in vain, and that all is made with supreme wisdom. We must gratefully consider how providentially one is made for the sake of another, and *all things for the sake of man*, for this end more especially, that by admiring the works of the Creator, he should at once extol His wisdom, and himself enjoy all those things, by which he may not merely live, but which may conduce to the comforts and the pleasures of life.”

CHAPTER VI.

LADY M.—“ We have devoted our morning very pleasantly, and I trust profitably. We will now prepare for a walk, my children; which will be both beneficial and agreeable.”

They were soon ready, and were proceeding on their walk, conversing on different subjects, when Sydney’s attention was arrested by the appearance of a little girl, who seemed to observe and shun them, hastening with great speed down a private path.

“ Who can that be?” he eagerly inquired.

“ I think it is Margery Dickens,” said Lady Mandeville. “ Pray, my dear, run and tell her I wish to speak to her.”

Sydney was off like an arrow, and the little girl returned, curtesying as she approached. Lady Mandeville asked her, kindly, where she had been in such great haste.

“ To my grandmother, an’ please your ladyship,” answered the little girl, mildly. “ She is very ill. Her cottage is in the lane just by.”

LADY M.—“ I am sorry your grandmother is ill; we will accompany you to see her.”

Arriving at a shattered solitary cottage, about half a mile from any other place of residence, Lady Mandeville entered, and was shocked to see, stretched on a miserable

flock bed, with scarcely any covering, a woman, apparently about eighty years of age, whose countenance and whole appearance depicted the last stage of sickness, and the greatest misery. The poor creature endeavoured to rise, but was too feeble to sit up. Lady Mandeville kindly inquired what misfortune had reduced her to her present deplorable situation, as she had formerly seen her in a more comfortable cottage, where every thing about her bore the appearance of neatness and comfort.

The poor woman answered: "Ah! my lady, I have indeed been unfortunate! But I have now little more to suffer. To that dear child, I am indebted for my present life, and for the very few comforts I have left. But for her, I must have perished for want, long since. Her father is my only son: and never

did a parent foster a child with greater tenderness than I did him. My husband died a few weeks prior to his birth, leaving me with slender means of subsistence ; but that small means I employed to the best advantage ; and, joining prudence with industry, I was enabled to give my boy a tolerably good education. At the age of fourteen, I articled him to an artist, thinking a profession the best thing I could give him. But, alas ! it proved his ruin. His master allowed him to keep improper hours ; he formed bad connections, became a drunkard, unmindful of his duty, and neglectful of his parent. Too late, his master saw the impropriety of his indulgence. But my son was irreclaimable. His conduct was so flagrant, that his employer would no longer keep him, but gave up his indentures and discharged him. He then, as

far as he could procure means, entered into every kind of dissipation. I constantly exhorted and advised him; but to no purpose. I still hoped, as he advanced in life, he would see his folly and repent. He married an industrious young woman, and my hopes gathered strength; but, alas! they were vain. I grieve to say, he is as bad a father and husband as he has been a son."

Here the poor creature was forced to give vent to her feelings in a flood of tears, and for some moments was incapable of proceeding. At length she continued:

"To pay his debts, I spent my last shilling, and then gave up my house and furniture to promote his comfort; but I fear that is now nearly all gone. I lived with him for some time; but, as I became infirm, and unable to work, he thought me troublesome,

and desired I would seek another abode. As I had no means of paying either for a lodging or cottage, I gained permission from the owner of this empty hovel, to move my miserable bed to it; and here I must have perished, being unable to walk out, but for this dear child. Her father has never been to see me; and, what is still more cruel, has forbidden his wife or children to visit me: but this dear little angel daily conceals for me the best part of her breakfast and supper, which is all the support I have; and this she clandestinely brings me every day, as she goes to school: on her return, she collects for me all the pieces of wood she can find, with which she kindles a little fire. But her affectionate attentions will not be much longer necessary! My lamp is nearly out! Yet I die happy, in the trust that God will provide for this dear child, as she

has done for me ; and my last prayer will be for the reformation of my poor lost son."

During this recital, little Margery had, unperceived by Lady Mandeville, been kneeling at the foot of her grandmother's bed ; while Sydney and Laura stood in amazement, bathed in tears.

Suddenly the door opened ; and, to the astonishment of all, Andrew Dickens, the father of the little girl, entered, with a countenance betraying an agony of mind indescribable. He threw himself on his knees, by the side of his poor dying mother's bed ; with uplifted hands, and with a heart which he declared was truly penitent, he implored his poor heart-broken parent's blessing and forgiveness. This he had only just time to receive, when the poor creature breathed her last.

It would be in vain to attempt to describe Andrew's feelings. Full of shame and contrition, he confessed to Lady Mandeville how unworthily he had passed his life, and the event, which had so unhappily brought him to the spot at that moment. He said, that he had peremptorily forbidden his children to visit their grandmother; and as he suspected Margery had disobeyed his orders, he had determined to follow, and punish her with severity for her disobedience. He had arrived at the door just as his poor mother began the recital, and had attentively listened to the whole, of which he forcibly felt the truth. He thanked God that he had done so, as he hoped it had worked in his mind a change, which would for ever prevent his returning to his former ill course of conduct.

Lady Mandeville and the children now left the hovel: and, as they were all too much affected to continue their walk, they returned home; her Ladyship first desiring that Andrew would have every respect paid to the remains of his poor departed mother, by giving her a respectable funeral, the expenses of which she promised to pay.

During their return to Mandeville Hall, not a sentence was uttered; but on their arrival, Lady Mandeville described to Sir William the melancholy scene they had witnessed. He was equally shocked, and expatiated largely on the heinousness of Andrew's conduct; while, he painted in glowing terms the amiable little Margery, who, he declared, was equally great with *Æneas*; with this difference, that one was a Trojan prince, and the other a little peasant.

SYDNEY.—“ Pray, dear uncle, who was *Æneas*?”

SIR WILLIAM.—“ I shall not vouch, my dear, for the facts of the story ; it is poetical, and probably fabulous, but the character is the same. He is spoken of as a great warrior, and in many respects a good man : in a war between the Greeks and his own party, the Trojans, he behaved with the greatest valour and bravery. But upon the Greeks proving victorious, he placed his father Anchises upon his back, and taking his little son, Ascanius, by the hand, collected the Trojan troops together, and retreated with them to Mount Ida. He then went to Epirus, and to Carthage, afterwards to Sicily, where he lost his father, whom he so tenderly loved, and to whose memory he erected a monument. Some years afterwards, he arrived in

Italy, and married Lavinia, daughter of King Latinus, whom he succeeded in the government. His son, Ascanius, was by this time grown a man, and with his assistance, he founded a new kingdom ; and from him the Romans derive their origin."

LADY M.—"From the striking contrast in the conduct of Andrew and little Margery, my dear children, we may derive much instruction. When we feel how highly the one is esteemed, and the other despised, the mind is imperceptibly led to the admiration of virtue, and naturally shrinks from the imitation of vice. We must unite our efforts to reclaim effectually, if possible, the misguided Andrew, and make some provision for his good little girl."

The party were here interrupted by the servant announcing dinner. During this so-

cial meal, the conversation again reverted to little Margery ; Laura observing, how much she wished to make her, her little pensioner.

LADY M.—“ I appreciate your motive of humanity, my dear child, and grant your request. Still more ; I will allow you a private purse, which you may apply to charitable purposes ; but remember, it must be done with discretion, and not be indiscriminately bestowed upon every individual who may solicit alms.”

SIR WILLIAM, (laughing).—“ No, for if you do so, my dear, I am afraid your purse will soon be emptied, and you will have more pensioners, than worthy supplicants. Laura reminds me of the poor Frenchman in Egypt.”

LAURA.—“ Do tell me why? dear Sir.”

SIR WILLIAM.—“ That I will do with pleasure. But I must first give you some little insight into the character of the Egyptians. They are, in general, a treacherous people, ungrateful to their friends, inhuman to their relations, faithless to strangers, and false to their words. If they can cheat by stratagem, they will; if not, they attempt it openly, and will not hesitate to accuse you publicly of some crime, or of owing them money. And those who preside in the courts of judicature are so meanly base, that for a trifling bribe, they will give judgment in favour of the accuser, though sensible that the accusation is unjust. The following is not a singular instance of such conduct among them :—

“ A worthy Frenchman, who had resided in Egypt many years as a merchant, used every

day to take a solitary walk. A poor Turk stood to solicit alms in the way by which this gentleman passed, and received daily of him a para (a small Egyptian coin), by way of charity. At length the merchant, finding his business decrease, determined to quit Alexandria and return to France, where he settled, and remained nine years. At the expiration of that term, he received some liberal offers, which induced him to settle again in Alexandria. According to his former custom, he went to take his usual walk ; and seeing the Turkish mendicant, whom he had so often relieved, offered him a para, as formerly. But the Turk refused his bounty ; and said, 'Sir, you are some hundreds in my debt.' The gentleman, justly incensed at this insolence, walked on, determined never more to give him any thing. The next day, the merchant

was ordered to appear before the cadi, when the beggar declared he owed him as many paras as there were days in nine years (the time of the merchant's absence). The cadi desired the mendicant to explain the nature of his debt, which he did as follows: 'During this gentleman's first residence in this city, I constantly received from him a para a-day; consequently, I considered myself his pensioner, and counted on my pension; he has acted very unjustly by me, in absenting himself nine years, without leaving a fund sufficient for the payment; but fate has favoured me in bringing him here again, and I doubt not but I shall have justice done me.' The cadi declared that the beggar had a right to the pension in question, and ordered the merchant to pay him up to that day, which he was obliged to comply with."

SYDNEY.—“ That was certainly the most unjust thing I ever heard of; and I dare say the gentleman took great care to relieve no more beggars in Alexandria. Surely the people of Egypt must be the greatest cheats in the world.”

LADY M.—“ They are not the only dishonest people, by many. On the coast of Guinea, the inhabitants are considered desperately treacherous, and very great cheats. But we should rather pity than condemn, when we consider that trick and cunning form a part of their education. But how much more indignantly must our feelings be excited against an English captain, who had received all the benefit of a Christian education, and yet could treacherously deceive. I must relate to you the circumstances, to prove the enormity of the crime.

“ It was on the coast of Guinea, that an English captain, in the year 1749, went up the country, with some of his people, to traffic, when he was introduced to one of the petty Negro sovereigns—a king over forty thousand men. This prince, being captivated with the polite behaviour of the English, entertained them with the greatest civility ; and at last reposed so much confidence in the captain, as to intrust him with his son, about eighteen years of age, and another sprightly youth, to be brought to England and educated in the European manner. The captain received them with great joy ; but they were no sooner in his power, than he basely sold them for slaves. In a short time after, he died ; and, on the ship coming to England, the officers related the whole affair ; on which the government sent to pay the

ransom of the Negro prince and his companion, and, being brought to England, were put under the care of the Earl of Halifax, first Commissioner of Trade and Plantations, who gave orders for clothing and educating them in a very genteel manner. They were afterwards introduced to the king, richly dressed in the European manner, and were graciously received. They appeared several times at the theatres, and one night in particular at Covent Garden, to see the tragedy of Oroonoko. They were received with great applause, which they acknowledged by a genteel bow, and then took their seats. The sight of persons in their own colour on the stage, apparently in the same kind of distress from which they had been themselves delivered; the tender interview between Imoinda and Oroonoko, who was be-

trayed by the treachery of a captain; his account of his sufferings, and the repeated abuse of his placability and confidence, strongly affected them with that generous grief, which pure nature always feels, and which art had not yet taught them to suppress. The young prince was so far overcome, that he was obliged to retire at the end of the fourth act. His companion remained, but wept the whole time; a circumstance which affected the audience yet more than the play, and drew many tears, which the fortunes of Oroonoko and Imoinda would scarcely have excited. These young Africans were baptized in the Christian faith. They appeared perfectly satisfied during their stay in England; but the young prince, being desirous of seeing his royal father, he and his companion politely took their leave, and arrived

safe at Anamaboe, in the month of December 1750."

LAURA.—“What an interesting tale. But how very delighted the king must have been to see them return.”

LADY M.—“The Negro sovereign, penetrated with gratitude for the paternal attention shewn to his son by the Earl of Halifax, sent presents of considerable value to that good nobleman, among which were two negro boys, of the same age as the young prince and his companion. These his lordship took particular care of, and provided for in a very decent manner. One died many years after, having fallen a martyr to excessive drinking; the other died more recently, universally esteemed for his politeness, and affability; and was well known in London, by the appella-

tion of the 'Gentleman Black.' He married a white woman, of good family and some fortune, who broke her heart for the loss of him, and was buried in the same grave, a few months after her husband."

SYDNEY.—" Our government amply compensated for the treachery of the English captain, whose breach of confidence was unpardonable, besides the cruelty of his conduct towards the young prince and his friend."

LADY M.—" A breach of trust and treachery are in all cases unpardonable, my love; and, I believe, generally meet their justly merited punishment: the instance just related, is an act of barbarity that we can hardly conceive a Christian capable of committing; though ultimately, through the

providence of Heaven, it proved of the greatest advantage to the young prince and his companion: and doubtless, through their means, was of infinite benefit to many other individuals."

SIR WILLIAM.—“ I fear I must interrupt this pleasing conversation, my dear children, by reminding you it is bed-time; and as I am happy to find you are both solicitous for information and anxious for improvement, we will lose no time, but commence our studies to-morrow. Under so able and exemplary an instructress as your aunt, my dear Laura, I have no doubt but you will become an ornament to your sex, and a valuable member of society. And by your application and industry, Sydney, I shall be amply compensated for my time, which I will devote to your improvement.”

The little orphans affectionately embraced their good uncle and aunt, wished them good night, and with grateful hearts retired to rest.

THE END.

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